

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276
www.sanbag.ca.gov

■ SANBAG presents draft list of eligible Prop 1B projects

SANBAG staff outlined a list of freeway and interchange projects that may be strong candidates for funding under Proposition 1B, approved by voters last month.

Prop 1B will provide \$19.9 billion for transportation improvements statewide. The California Transportation Commission likely will begin allocating funds for projects in March through the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account, which totals \$4.5 billion.

The CMIA is the first category of funds to be allocated from the bond and is the only category for which guidelines have been set. Transportation agencies and Caltrans are developing lists of projects that will qualify for funding under this category.

"Only \$4.5 billion will be awarded from this first revenue pot, but we are hearing that requests will total nearly \$20 billion," said SANBAG Executive Director Tony Grasso. "We want to ensure that our projects are the best contenders for these funds."

To qualify for funding through the CMIA, a project must be on the existing state highway system or on a major local road that directly reduces congestion on the highway system. An eligible project must reduce congestion for access to jobs, housing, markets and commerce and be ready to begin construction no later than Dec. 31, 2012.

An eligible project will be fully funded through construction — either from the CMIA alone or from a mix of CMIA and other state, federal or local funds. A project with local funding likely will score higher than one that does not. Projects will be evaluated using a benefit/cost analysis model and other measurements of time savings, safety benefits, air quality benefits and cost.

Project applications must be received by California Transportation Commission staff by mid-January. Projects being considered by SANBAG and Caltrans include:

- Interstate 10 interchange improvements east of Interstate 15, including Cherry, Citrus, Cedar, Riverside and Pepper Avenues
- I-10 westbound lane addition between Yucaipa and Redlands
- Interstate 15 widening; improvements to interchanges at D Street, E Street, Stoddard Wells Road and the Mojave River bridge; new interchanges at La Mesa/Nisqualli Road and Ranchero Road
- Route 210 connection to Interstate 215
- Interstate 215 carpool lanes between Interstate 10 and Route 30
- Route 58 realignment and widening



■ Goods movement action plan nears completion

Work is continuing on the Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan for southern California, with completion expected late next year.

Transportation agencies in San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside and Los Angeles and the Southern California Association of Governments have been working on the plan since 2005. Last month, the agreement between these agencies was amended to include funding from the San Diego Association of Governments, a Caltrans Planning and Research Grant and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. This amendment will not affect the scope of work for the goods movement plan.

The action plan will provide a comprehensive look at southern California goods movement, said Ty Schuiling, SANBAG's Director of Planning and Programming.

Funding the goods movement improvements needed in the region is a significant hurdle, Schuiling said. Between \$26 billion and \$30 billion is needed for infrastructure improvements, and another \$10 billion is needed for air quality mitigation from the movement of goods through the southland, he estimated.

While some funding is expected from the recently approved Proposition 1B — about \$2 billion from the freight movement category and about \$1 billion in the air quality category — this will represent "a modest down payment on our needs," he said.

Down the road . . .

- Dec. 13: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Dec. 20: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon

Interstate 215 widening is off & running

First phase of freeway widening to start in January

Bye-bye, traffic! Motorists on Interstate 215 in San Bernardino will be able to bid farewell to traffic jams in the future, thanks to the addition of four new travel lanes, plus new interchanges, bridges and auxiliary lanes along this section of freeway.

The SANBAG Board of Directors awarded a \$19.1 million contract to Atkinson Construction for the first phase of work on the project — the widening of the 5th Street bridge. Atkinson was the low bidder for the project from a field of seven bidders. They are under contract to SANBAG now for the construction of Route 210 in Rialto and San Bernardino and the widening of Interstate 10 in Redlands.

This month's *Street Smart* provides information about the Interstate 215 improvements that are planned during the next six to seven years.

Project Background

SANBAG, Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration and the City of San Bernardino will be making improvements to Interstate 215 between Interstate 10 and Route 30 to meet traffic demands through this area. Originally built in 1959, Interstate 215 is marked by traffic congestion during peak morning and afternoon commute hours.



Traffic is heavy during peak morning commute hours on southbound Interstate 215 in San Bernardino.

The project will include five phases with an estimated cost of more than \$650 million.

Project Highlights

The goal of the I-215 widening project is to reduce traffic congestion by adding one carpool lane and one general use lane in both directions from south of Orange Show Road to the interchange with Route 30. These four new lanes will create a total of 10 lanes on this stretch of freeway. The project also will:

- Widen and realign freeway bridges
- Improve access and enhance safety by removing entrances and exits from the fast lane and making direct connections to major streets
- Add an auxiliary lane between 5th Street and the split with Route 259, and between 2nd Street and Mill Street, for better traffic merging
- Build decorative sound walls and retaining walls at approved locations along the freeway

Project Sections & Estimated Construction

- Phase I: Widening of 5th Street bridge, early 2007 to mid-2009
- Phase II: Freeway widening from south of Orange Show Road to Rialto Avenue, mid-2007 to mid-2010
- Phase III: Freeway widening from Rialto Avenue to 9th Street, spring 2008 to fall 2011
- Phase IV: Freeway widening from 9th Street to Massachusetts Avenue, spring 2009 to spring 2013
- Phase V: Freeway widening from Massachusetts Avenue to Route 30, early 2011 to 2013

Phase I: 5th Street Bridge

This phase of the project will provide a new bridge at 5th Street with two travel lanes and two left-turn lanes in both directions, plus a sidewalk on the north side of the street. Once the freeway is widening, the new bridge will feature an on-ramp and off-ramp directly on 5th Street. The left-hand, fast-lane entrance on 4th Street will be eliminated; the 6th Street off-ramp also will be removed.

In most cases, the bridge will remain open to drivers during the 30-month construction period. Some temporary night closures will be needed. The 4th Street on-ramp will close for about six months, likely in late 2008. Some night-time full freeway closures will be needed during the project; motorists will be detoured to H Street.

A ground-breaking ceremony for this phase of the project is being planned for late January. Watch for announcements for this event.

For More Information

SANBAG has established a toll-free project helpline, 1-866-215-NEWS to respond to questions and complaints. Calls made to the helpline will be returned by the next business day.

Other information is available by visiting the SANBAG website, www.sanbag.ca.gov.